



# Malta House of Care

*Mobile Medical Clinic*

## *Wonder Women Class of '18*

Sr. Maureen Faenza, CSJ and Sr. Theresa Fonti, CSJ of Hartford  
Co-Founders, House of Bread

Mahatma Gandhi once said: "There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."

Believing that "food is indeed the gift of life," Sr. Maureen Faenza, CSJ and Sr. Theresa Fonti, CSJ founded [The House of Bread](#) in 1980 with the mission to feed the hungry and house the homeless in Hartford.

At first, they did this by serving coffee and donuts from the back of a van. Today, the House of Bread Soup Kitchen annually prepares and serves about 130,000 meals, while its Kids' Cafe program provides 140,000 hot meals for schoolchildren.

And the House of Bread now offers much more than food; its other services include:

- \* **Jubilee House**, a former convent in the South End of Hartford that was restored and re-opened in 1997 as a community adult education and social service center. It provides English literacy and social integration services to Hartford residents, especially immigrants and refugees.
- \* **The H.O.M.E. Program** (Helping Our Mothers Through Education), through which women can earn their GEDs.
- \* **The Ed O'Neil House**, which offers 27 units of affordable housing for the working poor
- \* **The Project F.E.A.S.T. Program** (Food Education and Service Training), which provides the training, SafeServ accreditation, and on-the-job experience necessary for unemployed men and women to get jobs in the food service industry.
- \* **A Mentoring program** that matches children from the North End with adults from St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church for fun learning experiences and mutually satisfying friendships.
- \* **The House of Bread Day Shelter**, a drop-in center for the homeless, offers information and referral to social services agencies along with showers and toilets, personal hygiene supplies and laundry facilities, a full-time client advocate, and a part-time nurse.

The House of Bread is certainly much different today than it was 38 years ago, but one thing is thankfully the same: its leadership. The two Sisters of Saint Joseph who started the place are still at the helm, managing operations, getting to know clients, dreaming of new and better ways to minister to marginalized neighbors in Hartford.

Sr. Theresa and Sr. Maureen ARE the House of Bread – and Hartford is blessed to have them.